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Visual Materials



ON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

WATER (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 11 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1948)

The second in a series of four films prepared especially for school use. Tells the story of water—its many values and its potential destructive power when uncontrolled. Develops the theme that water is essential to all life, that the most valuable water is that which soaks into the ground where it falls as rain or snow, and that the most destructive water is that which is permitted to run off uncontrolled from the ground where it falls. Points out the disadvantages of both too much and too little rain and what we can do to remedy both through soil- and water-conservation methods.

EROSION (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 11 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1948)

The third in a series of four films prepared especially for school use. Tells the story of man-made soil erosion and what it has done to our productive land. Distinguishes between natural erosion and man-made erosion. Depicts sheet and gully erosion by water and erosion by wind and explains the destructive force of each. Ends by showing that destructive erosion is not necessary, if conservation-farming methods are used.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 12 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1948)

The fourth in a series of four films prepared especially for school use. Shows briefly how conservation-farming methods may prevent further destruction of the Nation's soil and water resources. Emphasizes proper land use as the basis for conservation farming. Shows how several of the most common conservation practices can be applied to the land, such as contouring, terracing, strip cropping, cover cropping, crop rotations, and tree and grass planting.

WATER FOR A NATION (2 reels, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 20 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1949)

Shows that the farmer depends upon water to raise his crops and livestock, and the Nation, in turn, depends upon him to guard its precious water supply through soil- and water-conservation practices. Water is necessary to all life, but it can be a terrifying enemy in the form of devastating floods. Shows that conservation farming helps to keep the water in the soil where it falls as rain or snow, thus preventing runoff and flood, and in arid country is the means of utilizing every drop of available water. Sequences show farmers and ranchers in different regions of the country farming the conservation way, guarding the Nation's water, raising their crops, and doing both better than ever before. Excellent photography, effective narration, and original music score. Suitable for all schools, from the fifth grade up. Approved for telecasting.

KNOW YOUR LAND (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 10 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1945)

Presents in a simple way the principles of land classification according to its capability for use. Identifies eight land classes and points out the proper use and treatment for each class. The story is presented largely as a dialogue between a farmer and the family doctor, who is a supervisor of the local soil conservation district. The doctor is called to the farm home to treat a sick child. After diagnosing the trouble and prescribing the treatment for the child, he recommends that the farmer get an expert diagnosis and prescription for treatment of the land that is washing away on the farm. He explains the land classes and some of the principles of their proper use and treatment. The film's simple dialogue and nontechnical plot have special appeal for farmers who are just beginning to get interested in soil conservation. But its value is not confined to that group. Will appeal to most urban groups, including civic clubs and especially urban dwellers who own farm land. Also suitable for school use at any level above the sixth grade and has special appeal for vocational agriculture classes, 4-H Clubs, and college students interested in agriculture.

FOOD AND SOIL (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 10 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1944)

Presents in an entertaining way the often overlooked but important fact that all the food we eat, with the possible exception of seafood, comes directly or indirectly from productive soil—and nowhere else. An excellent introduction for those who want to get, easily and quickly, the highlights of soil conservation in the United States. Especially suited for showings to urban dwellers and luncheon clubs. Recommended for use in schools in intermediate grades and above, to both urban and rural pupils. Farmers will find it interesting. Approved for telecasting.

GRASSLAND (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 9½ minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1938, revised 1944)

Deals with the vast area making up our western range country. This range, once capable of supporting 22 million animal-units, can now carry only half that number. Overstocking results in overgrazing. When the land is stripped of vegetation, erosion begins. How to prevent overgrazing and restore areas of desolation to productivity is the problem covered by this film. Interesting photography of sheep and cattle on the range. The narrative is a bit technical in places. Its appeal may be limited largely to rural areas and to schools of the Southwest. Suitable for junior and senior high schools.

MUDDY WATERS (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 9 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1937, revised 1944)

The story of land use and abuse in the Southwest. When occupied by Indians the soil was securely anchored by vegetation. Forested

mountains supplied crystal-clear water to irrigate crops. The white man transformed the area into a vast farming and stock-raising region. Overgrazing depleted the vegetation, leaving the land barren and subject to floods and erosion. Emphasizes the need for soil conservation. The narrative is rather technical in places. Will appeal largely to farmers and ranchers, but suitable for some urban clubs and groups as well as schools in the Southwest. Suitable for high schools and vocational agricultural classes.

RAINS ON THE PLAINS (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 9 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1938, revised 1944)

Shows the causes and effects of wind erosion and dust storms on the southern Great Plains and some steps taken to reclaim ruined land. The rainfall in this area, if conserved, is usually sufficient to produce good crops. The urgent need is to conserve the rainfall so that a cover crop can be grown to hold the soil in place. To do this the Soil Conservation Service recommends certain farm practices, including contour tillage, terracing, strip cropping with alternate strips of wind-resistant crops, sodding, planting of windbreaks, and the construction of dams. The film demonstrates all of them. The first part has some Nation-wide appeal but most of it will appeal to farmers and rural school students of the southern Great Plains. Suitable for junior and senior high school students of the southern Great Plains and vocational agricultural students.

WETLANDS (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 11 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1944)

Shows where our 120 million acres of wetlands are. Points out that 78 million of them will serve us best if left in their natural state for the production of timber and the preservation of wildlife. Thirty-one million acres are shown to be suited to farming if properly drained. A section of the film illustrates briefly the principal types of water control and methods of land drainage. Through the use of these methods, farmers, working together, can improve drainage on land now being farmed and bring into production land that is now too wet for any production. Much of this film will appeal to both urban and rural audiences in the East. Some parts are mainly suited for farm audiences. Should be useful for junior and senior high schools in rural areas, especially for vocational agricultural classes and 4-H Clubs.

FOR YEARS TO COME (2 reels, 16 mm, sound, color, 22 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1944)

Depicts the work of a farmer and his family during a whole year—a year in which they changed over from the old, straight-row method to modern conservation-farming methods. Shows that this change-over is not difficult and that it results in increased crop production at the end of the first year. Also shows how farm contour lines are laid out and how contour plowing is done. Contains a variety of

scenes of farm animals and the usual farm activities, such as making butter, picking cherries and peaches, and harvesting the major crops. Opens with pictures of the autumn harvest season, contains a snow sequence, and a blossomtime and spring sequence, all contributing to make it beautiful, entertaining, and instructive. The dialogue is nontechnical; the photography is excellent. Much appeal to both urban and rural audiences. Suitable for use in schools in intermediate grades and up.

TERRACING IN THE NORTHEAST (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 10 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1939)

Shows the various steps in building terraces, including fitting the terrace system to the whole farm plan, establishing channels and outlets to handle excess water, laying out terrace lines on the contour, and the actual machine operations. Suitable mainly for farm audiences of the Northeast. In schools this film will have little appeal outside of rural areas in the Northeast. Its greatest value will be to vocational agriculture classes or 4-H Clubs.

HARVESTING NATIVE GRASS SEED (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 10 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1945)

Presents clearly and in detail methods of harvesting seed of both tall and short grasses. Mechanical changes required to permit the use of a standard combine are shown and discussed. Several methods of seed cleaning are shown, and the value of native grass seed in soil and water conservation is pointed out. Most valuable for farmer audiences in the Great Plains but suitable for any area where native grass seeds are harvested. Its main value in schools will be for vocational agriculture classes and 4-H Clubs.

A HERITAGE WE GUARD (3 reels, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 30 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1940)

Traces the early exploitation of wildlife by hunters, trappers, and farmers; the gradual westward movement of settlers; and the thoughtless exploitation of the land, forests, and wildlife. Shows some of the consequences of exploitation, such as soil erosion, dust storms, and depleted wildlife. Shows the interrelation of wildlife and soil conservation and some steps that are being taken to restore and conserve our natural resources. Has some excellent photography, especially of wild birds, animals, and fish. Has wide appeal to both urban and rural audiences. It is especially recommended for history, geography, and biology classes in junior and senior schools and in colleges.

SNOW HARVEST (2 reels, 16 mm, sound, color, 35 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1946)

This is the story, dramatically told, of the important and hazardous activity of making snow surveys in the high mountains of the West. It is rich in winter scenery "rarely looked upon by man"; yet it shows

the techniques of measuring snow to forecast irrigation and other water supplies in enough detail to satisfy even scientific viewers. The narration is simple and nontechnical; the photography is excellent. Though especially directed at audiences of the West, this film has much appeal for both urban and rural people everywhere. Suitable in schools, for intermediate grades and above.

RAINDROPS AND SOIL EROSION (2 reels, sound, color, 21 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1947)

Through the use of close-up photography, raindrops are shown to be the cause of much of our erosion problem. Teamed with surface flow, they are a destructive force which must be considered when determining the right land use and treatment, the foundation of effective soil and water conservation. Suitable for groups of all ages.

IN COMMON CAUSE (2 reels, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 20 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1945)

Shows what soil conservation districts have accomplished, how they are formed and operated, and the big job yet to be done in this vital program for increasing crop production and saving our soil. Especially valuable for meetings where district organization is just getting under way. Also recommended for classes in civics and problems of democracy in junior and senior high schools.

THE GOLDEN SECRET (½ reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 5 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1946)

In effect a fast moving, 16 mm color-sound slide film based on an artist's conception of a mythical kingdom where the soil layers are of gold, silver, and copper. The story is about the golden layer (topsoil) being washed away and what the son of the king's huntsman did to save it. The king rewards the boy with the gift of his best farm. It should have much appeal to younger children and is suitable for showing to older children or adults. Any child who can read and understand the comics will be able to enjoy and understand the film. It is an excellent starter for a discussion of the value of topsoil or may well be used with other films of the more usual type.

BLUE LUPINE (2 reels, sound, color, 20 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1947)

The story of blue lupine, a legume or nitrogen-producing cover crop developed to combat the decline in soil fertility in the South. **BLUE LUPINE** shows clearly how to plant, harvest, clean, store, and care for the seed. The importance of the crop to Southern agriculture is stressed. Mechanical changes required to permit the use of standard combines in harvesting seed are shown and discussed. A most useful film for showing to farmer audiences, especially in the South. In schools, its greatest value will be for 4-H Clubs and vocational agriculture students wherever blue lupine is being introduced.

FLOOD (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 10 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1946)

Shows many flood scenes and emphasizes the damage done by floods. But the main emphasis is on the causes of floods and how best to control them. The relation between runoff from upstream farm, forest, and range land to downstream floods is shown. The effects of soil- and water-conservation measures on upstream watersheds and downstream floods is also shown. Dramatic in places and contains some excellent photography. Should have equal appeal to both urban and rural audiences. The narration is nontechnical. Suitable for showing to intermediate and upper elementary grades and to high schools.

ROADS AND EROSION (2 reels, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 21 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1941)

Presents the outstanding measures now being used by farmers and highway departments throughout the country for the control of farm and highway erosion. Typical examples of erosion are shown along with cooperative conservation work of farmers and highway departments. The advantages of planned highway construction and highway-erosion control in beautifying the roadside, reducing highway maintenance costs and improving highway safety are summarized. Has appeal for urban audiences but will be most useful in rural areas. Especially suitable for vocational agriculture classes and 4-H Clubs.

IRRIGATION FARMING (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, 12 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1942)

Presents some irrigation problems and their solution in the Southwest. Emphasizes the need for a well-planned lay-out and water-control system in irrigation farming. Shows some standard methods of planning and installing or revising farm-irrigation systems. Most valuable for showings to irrigation farmers. Also suitable for any audience that is interested in irrigation problems. In schools, its value will be limited mainly to vocational agriculture classes and 4-H Clubs.

THE SOUTH GROWS GREEN (4 reels, 16 mm, sound, color, 40 minutes; produced by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1948)

As the South grows green, crop diversification is replacing the old, destructive one-crop system. The result is more production of a variety of crops and products—dairy products, beef, lamb, mutton, wool, poultry, and eggs—increased production of row crops such as tobacco, corn, and cotton from less acres. The soil-protecting and soil-building crops, sericea and kudzu, are shown to be playing a big part in this transformation. The story is presented in an interesting manner with beautiful photography and an original musical score. An excellent film for any type of audience in the South. Also recommended for farmer and businessmen audiences of other regions. In schools, its main value will also be in the South, but it will also be interesting to history or geography classes elsewhere.

Films Produced by Other Agencies of the U. S. Department of Agriculture

THE RIVER (3 reels, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 32 minutes; produced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1939)

A dramatic documentary film of the Mississippi River—what it has done and what man has done to it. A persuasive indictment of our practices of the past and what we should do in the future if we are to avoid soil and lumber losses and the disastrous effects of floods.. A conscientious effort to present a fundamental problem so factually and dramatically that those who see the picture will be moved to action. One small portion of the film is devoted to the TVA, the CCC, and the Resettlement Administration. Aside from that, government agencies are not mentioned. Should have appeal to all people interested in the past, present, or future of this Nation. Suitable for intermediate grades and above.

HARVESTS FOR TOMORROW (3 reels, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 27 minutes; produced by the AAA, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1941)

Shows the basic need for soil conservation and the use of soil-building practices in the Northeast with emphasis on grass and legumes. A documentary-type picture on rural New England. Should have general appeal both to urban and rural people of the Northeast. Outside that area its greatest appeal will be to rural audiences. Suitable for junior and senior high schools.

TREES TO TAME THE WIND (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 12 minutes; produced by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; 1940)

A narrative story of the planting of field windbreaks and shelterbelts in the Great Plains, where farmers cooperated with the Forest Service in one of the most unusual tree-planting programs ever undertaken. Should have general appeal to both urban and rural audiences of the Great Plains. Appeal limited outside that region. Suitable for junior and senior high schools.

Films Produced by Commercial and Other Nongovernmental Agencies

BROAD BASE TERRACING (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 12 minutes; produced by J. I. Case Co., Racine, Wis.)

Shows how to build a terrace with a one-way disk plow. Diagrams and voice complete the description. Excellent for those who want to build a terrace with this type of equipment. The monologue is non-technical and the diagrams are good. Suitable for anyone who knows what a broad base terrace is and wants to build one.

BUILDING BACK (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 18 minutes; produced by Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co., Milwaukee, Wis.)

Tells the story of land destruction in the United States and points out some of the causes, in a very interesting way. Then tells how we are "building back" with conservation. Some experimental work and

many conservation practices are shown. Has some appeal for urban audiences but more for farmers. A nontechnical presentation but with a rather fast dialogue. Suitable for senior high schools and for rural pupils of the upper grades.

BUILD GOOD TERRACES (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 12 minutes; produced by J. I. Case Co., Racine, Wis.)

This film shows and describes by motion-picture diagrams and sound how to build a good channel-type terrace with a two-bottom mold-board plow. The subject matter is accurate and well described. The narrative and diagrams are easy to follow. This film is suitable for anyone who has a real desire to build terraces with ordinary farm equipment. Good for vocational agriculture students and 4-H Clubs.

BUILD A POND (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 10 minutes, released 1946 by J. I. Case Co., Racine, Wis.)

Shows how to choose a site for and build a farm pond. An excellent film for farmers, advanced 4-H Clubs, and vocational agriculture students. Has little appeal for urban audiences.

IT CAN HAPPEN HERE (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 35 minutes; produced by Ford-Ferguson, Dearborn, Mich.)

A personalized story of the ill effects of soil erosion and declining yields on the business of Main Street, U. S. A. Jeff Thomas, a stranger in town, explains to the local businessmen that the land belongs to the people despite who owns it. With one-third of our soil lost already, farmers are joining in soil conservation districts, which get the help of the Soil Conservation Service. Land capability is explained. The film shows the mutual dependence of both the farmer and businessman upon the continuing fertility of our soil. The continuity and interest is good because of the personal touch and a real story told in simple terms. An excellent film for both urban and rural audiences. Suitable for the upper grades and high schools.

LEVEL FARMING ON SLOPING FIELDS (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 11 minutes; produced by J. I. Case Co., Racine, Wis.)

Deals with the three reasons for contouring: (1) Saves tractor power; (2) produces higher yields; and (3) conserves soil, seed, fertilizer, and rainfall. Shows how most types of equipment can be used for contouring, the building of terraces, for terrace maintenance, rotating crops in strips, building pasture contour furrows, and disking tree rows on the contour. Scenes are shown from South Carolina, South Dakota, the western range, Michigan, and other farms. Suited mainly for farmer audiences. In schools this film will be of most use in vocational agriculture classes and advanced 4-H Clubs.

MASTERS OF THE SOIL (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 25 minutes; produced by Ethyl Corp., 405 Lexington Avenue, New York City)

Soil conservation is the main theme of this film. Conservation practices suitable for the Corn Belt are discussed and shown and land-capability classes are explained. The story is about a farm family,

principally the father and son. Its main point is that we can be masters of the soil. We don't need to let a rundown and eroded soil determine our destiny. There is a commercial plug for high-compression-gasoline tractor engines and good gasoline. Will appeal mainly to rural audiences but has some appeal for urban groups. Suitable for junior and senior high school students.

ONCE UPON A TIME (16 mm, silent, 14 minutes; produced by the National Wildlife Federation, Washington, D. C.)

A cartoon film that deals with the exploitation and waste of our country's basic resources—soil, forests, and wildlife. Centuries ago, our soil was protected either by great forests or thick prairie grasses, both of which were destroyed by lumbermen, farmers, cattlemen, and land exploiters at the most rapid rate known to civilization. How the after-effect accelerated erosion is graphically shown with just enough humor to make the film entertaining while its message is being unfolded. Particularly adapted to elementary school audiences and one of the most popular school films on the subject. Also suitable for adult audiences either urban or rural.

PERMANENT AGRICULTURE (2 reels, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 30 minutes; produced by International Harvester Co., North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.)

Tells the story of land settlement and land abuse in this country in an interesting and dramatic manner. Emphasizes the millions of eroded and abandoned acres. Stresses the work of the Soil Conservation Service and soil conservation districts in developing a new pattern on the land for a permanent agriculture. Shows and explains many of the principal conservation practices now being used in soil conservation. Most scenes are shot in the South. Has much appeal to both urban and rural audiences, especially those of the South. Suitable mainly for high schools but also for upper grades in rural communities, especially in the South.

SAVE THAT SOIL (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 25 minutes; produced by the American Potash Co., 1155 Sixteenth St., NW., Washington, D. C.)

Tells the story of erosion, declining yields, abandoned farms, and floods. Explains the soil conservation program of the South with emphasis on the use of legumes for hay, pasture, and cover crops. Gives a useful list of legume crops for the South. Emphasizes the decline of schools, churches, and towns as the soil is depleted. Will appeal to both urban and rural audiences, especially in the South. Suitable for high schools—especially vocational agriculture classes and advanced 4-H Clubs.

SOIL AND LIFE (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 14 minutes; produced by J. I. Case Co., Racine, Wis.)

Describes how it took millions of years to build soil and how erosion destroys it in a few years. Only conservation practices can prevent the destruction. Shows good scenes of sheet and gully erosion and conservation measures such as applications of barnyard manure, green

manuring, stubble mulching, contour strip cropping, broad-base terracing, grassed waterways, and planting of kudzu and other legume hay crops. Equipment like the one-way disk plow and power-controlled disk harrow is shown in action on these conservation jobs. Ends by saying that wars of conquest have been fought for the soil. Has some appeal for urban audiences but more suited for farmers. Suitable for high school showings and possibly for upper grades in rural communities.

SOIL AND THE SOUTH (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 20 minutes; produced by Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Co., Birmingham, Ala.)

The main theme of this film is the dependence of the South on agriculture and the soil that supports it. Animated drawings show how soil is built under natural conditions and destroyed by improper cultivation. The development and application of a complete conservation farm plan is featured. Diversification, terracing, contouring, strip cropping, green manuring, rotation, fertilizing, and pasture and woodland management are the principal conservation practices emphasized. The story tells how a local banker sells a young farmer on the idea of conservation farming and agrees to finance him. The farmer rehabilitates a worn-out farm. Most of the scenes were shot in Tennessee and Alabama, but a few were made in other Southeastern States. There is a commercial plug about the use of basic slag as a fertilizer and soil amendment. Should have considerable appeal both to urban and rural people, especially in the South. Suitable for junior high school students and above.

SOIL CONSERVATION WITH REGULAR FARM EQUIPMENT (2 reels, 16 mm, sound, color, 20 minutes; produced by John Deere Plow Company, Milwaukee, Wis.)

About one-third of this film shows the need for soil conservation. The rest deals with how to do some of the more important conservation jobs with regular farm equipment. Some excellent shots of water in action—causing sheet and rill erosion. Disk tillers, moldboard plows, and other farm implements are shown constructing terraces, filling in gullies, and doing other conservation operations. Contour planting and cultivation, plowing under green manure, crossing grass waterways with implements, and many other correct conservation-farming operations are shown. Most of the scenes were shot in the Corn Belt. Has some appeal for urban audiences but is especially suited to rural audiences. Narration is simple and all sequences clear. Suitable for intermediate grades and above.

THE LIFE OF THE SOIL (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 28 minutes; produced by National Fertilizer Co., 616 Investment Building, Washington, D. C.)

Emphasizes the need for a balance in nature to attain conservation. Explains the life processes in the soil with the alternating cycle of life, death, and decay. Explains how plant foods in great quantities must be put back in the soil to replace the tremendous amounts taken out by crops and erosion. Commercial fertilizers can only supply a small part of the nutrients needed. Conservation farming by adding

organic matter in residues and green-manure crops along with regular fertilizers is the best way of keeping the soil productive. A rather technical film with limited appeal. Will be of most use in farmer meetings, vocational agriculture classes, advanced 4-H Clubs, and biology and other science classes in high schools and colleges.

THIS IS OUR LAND (1 reel, 16 mm and 35 mm, sound, 28 minutes; produced by Ethyl Corp., 405 Lexington Avenue, New York City)

Presents the story of soil destruction in the United States and urges soil conservation. Explains the dependence of industry, commerce, and our high standard of living on the soil. Stresses the work of the Soil Conservation Service and cooperating farmers. Devotes some space to conservation practices with emphasis on using land according to its capability. Points out that soil conservation increases production. This film is dramatic in places, especially where our past abuse of the soil is presented. Interesting for both urban and rural audiences. Suitable for upper grades and high schools.

UNDER WESTERN SKIES (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 30 minutes; produced by International Harvester Co., North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.)

Shows many beautiful mountain and valley farm and woodland scenes in the five Northwestern States. The main theme of the film is soil and forest conservation. Presents the soil erosion, deforestation, and forest-fire problems. Shows conservation practices for forests and farms, and for sand-dune land. Presents some of the work of the Soil Conservation Service and of soil conservation districts in solving the land problems of this region. Will be interesting to everyone in the Northwest and to most urban as well as rural audiences in other regions. Suitable for all high school students and many of those in the upper grades who are interested in outdoors, conservation, etc.

THE LIVING EARTH SERIES (4 one-reel films, 16 mm, sound, color, 10 minutes each; produced by the Conservation Foundation, New York City)

This series of four films, entitled "Birth of the Soil," "This Vital Earth," "Arteries of Life," and "Seeds of Destruction" were produced mainly for use in science classes of junior and senior high schools. This series is very suitable, however, for adult audiences, especially for urban audiences.

Birth of the Soil, first film in the series, explains with scientific accuracy the story of how nature produced our life-giving topsoil from the basic raw materials of rock, air, and sunlight. By excellent color photography, and animated drawings, it shows how rock becomes topsoil. In animation the film portrays the first four links in the "chain of life": Nature's raw materials, the sun's energy, the chlorophyll in plants, and living topsoil.

This Vital Earth tells the story of how all plants and animals are dependent on other plants and animals in the same community in the "chain of life." This "organization of the living community" is the fifth link.

Arteries of Life explains the last two important links in the chain, water and forests. Vividly shows that topsoil is helpless in supplying life unless aided by water and that water itself depends upon the forests which provide humus to store and regulate its flow.

Seeds of Destruction, an ominous film conveying the message of urgency and need for conservation of our resources, reveals the results if any one of the links in the chain is broken. Unscientific lumbering processes, devastating forest fires, uncontrolled wind or water erosion, overworked land, and roaring floods are shown as the implements which can destroy our world unless man acts in time.

THE PEOPLE TOGETHER (3 reels, 16 mm, sound, color, 35 minutes; produced by the Sears Roebuck Foundation, Chicago, Ill.)

The story opens in a schoolroom where the class is listening to a lecture by the teacher on erosion and the conservation of the soil. Moved by the lecture, a 12-year-old boy in the class follows the creek up through his father's cornfield. Here he sees the runoff after a heavy rain. Through him and his grandfather, farmers in the valley are encouraged to form a soil conservation district. Both urban and rural residents in the area gather in the town hall of the village and vote to form a district. Suitable for intermediate grades and above, both urban and rural.

BETTER FARMS FOR A GREATER GEORGIA (3 reels, 16 mm, sound, color, 27 minutes; contributed by the Trust Co. of Georgia, and affiliated banks, produced by the University System of Georgia in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service, and Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations)

A story of 100 Georgia farm corporations, known as the Georgia better farms program. The film shows and tells how 700 businessmen, industrialists, bankers, lawyers, and doctors of Georgia, under the leadership of Cason J. Callaway, purchased and operated 100-acre farms scattered throughout 67 counties of the State for 3 years. Technical assistance for the better farms program was furnished by the Soil Conservation Service, the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service, and the agricultural experiment stations of Georgia. This film will be of most interest to the people of Georgia. This film will have special appeal for civic groups, agricultural workers, and farm audiences in any community where better agriculture is desired. It is suitable for showing in schools in the intermediate grades and up.

OUR GOLDEN GIFT (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 30 minutes; produced by the American Butter Institute)

Soil conservation is the underlying theme for this film. The importance of dairy products in the American diet is emphasized, relating such products to soil conservation. The story of a writer gathering material for a feature story in a Sunday paper. The scene is laid in such places as Louis Bromfield's Malabar Farm, University of Wisconsin, and Purdue University. Documented by scientists from these institutions. Only the first part of the film is particularly related to

soil conservation; the last part emphasizes butter and other dairy products in maintaining health and vigor of the American people.

The motion pictures made by commercial and other non-Government agencies can usually be obtained by loan or purchase from the nearest representatives of the producing company. In addition, these films will usually be available for loan at the SCS regional film libraries listed on the inside front cover.

Foreign Films

SOIL FOR TOMORROW (3 reels, 16 mm, sound, color, 35 minutes; released by the National Farm Board of the Canadian Government, Ottawa, Canada)

Mainly a story about the Canadian "Dust Bowl" of the thirties and the soil- and water-conservation practices needed to prevent its recurrence. Some historical background material about the settlement of the Canadian plains is shown. The continuity of the story is good and interest is maintained to the end of the film. The narrative is nontechnical. The photography is excellent. Should appeal to both urban and rural audiences. Especially recommended for history and geography classes in junior and senior high schools.

LAND FOR MEN (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, 15 minutes; released by the National Farm Board of the Canadian Government, Ottawa, Canada)

A wartime film that emphasizes the need for better soil conservation practices during and after the war. Shows how Canadian farmers increased war production by using conservation-farming methods. Explains that World War I was partly responsible for serious soil erosion in the country and warns against continued exploitation of the land after World War II. Shows some ways that the Government is helping returned veterans to get established in farming. Has both urban and rural appeal. Suitable for high schools.

YOUR SOIL—YOUR FUTURE (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 8 minutes; sound tracks in both Spanish and English; produced by The Institute of Inter-American Affairs, Washington, D. C.)

Tells the story of two farmers, one of whom exploited the land and induced erosion while the other practiced conservation. Most of the scenes were shot in Central America. The story is elementary but effective. One farmer cut down all the trees and plowed all his grass and forest land, even on steep slopes, and ruinous erosion was the result. Another farmer practiced conservation and prospered. Effective for elementary students of the third grade or above. Also suitable for adult audiences where an elementary film is desired. Should have almost as much appeal to urban as to rural people.

THE LAND MUST EAT (1 reel, 16 mm, sound, color, 9 minutes; both Spanish and English sound tracks; produced by The Institute of Inter-American Affairs, Washington, D. C.)

A sequel to *Your Soil—Your Future*. It stresses the need for putting plant food back into the soil. It emphasizes the need for organic

fertilizers, such as barnyard manure, compost, green-manure crops, and crop rotations. The story is simple: One farmer fails to return any organic materials to his land and eventually finds the soil unproductive; another farmer practices good organic conservation methods and prospers. Should have its greatest appeal to rural school children but may also interest many urban children. The story is simple enough to be appreciated by fourth-grade pupils but is also suitable for adult audiences where an elementary film is desired.

How To Buy Prints of Motion Pictures Produced by the Soil Conservation Service and Other Agencies of the U. S. Department of Agriculture

Prints of all 16-mm U. S. Department of Agriculture motion pictures may be bought direct from United World Films, Inc., 1445 Park Avenue, New York 29, N. Y. No authorization from the USDA is required. Prices vary, but black-and-white film is about \$15 a reel and color film about \$50. Schools and other nonprofit organizations receive a 10-percent discount. Inquire direct for exact prices and delivery arrangements.

To buy prints of USDA's 35-mm motion pictures, you should have authorization from Motion Picture Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Prints are purchased from the concerns holding the USDA film contracts. Inquire of the Motion Picture Service for authorization and addresses.

Federal and other Government agencies may buy prints at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's contract price. Inquire of the Motion Picture Service for authorization, prices, and purchasing procedures.

How To Obtain Films on Loan

The motion pictures listed in this catalog can usually be obtained on loan from regional Soil Conservation Service film libraries. See the inside front cover for addresses.

**SLIDEFILMS ABOUT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**WIND EROSION: ITS CONTROL ON THE SOUTHERN
GREAT PLAINS**, No. 456, 1937.

SOIL EROSION IN THE UNITED STATES, No. 467, 1937.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BY THE BEAVER, No. 502, 1938.

SOIL CONSERVATION BENEFITS WILDLIFE, No. 558, 1939.

**ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF GRASSED
WATERWAYS**, No. 559, 1939.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT THROUGH SOIL CONSERVA-
TION IN THE NORTHEAST**, No. 562, 1939.

CORNBELT FARMERS FIGHT EROSION, No. 572, 1939.

FRONTIERS OF GRASS—A STORY OF THE WEST, No. 585,
1939.

SOIL EROSION AND ITS CONTROL IN ORCHARDS, No. 611,
1941.

TREE PLANTING AND LAND USE, No. 620, 1941.

CONTOURED ACRES FIGHT, No. 639, 1942.

FIRST THINGS FIRST, No. 640, 1943.

WILDLIFE AND SOIL CONSERVATION, No. 670, 1947.

RAINDROPS AND EROSION, No. 672, 1947.

FARM TO FIT YOUR LAND, No. 676, 1947.

IRRIGATION—LIFEBLOOD OF THE WEST, No. 680.

KNOW YOUR LAND, No. C-8, 1949.

Slidefilms are not distributed on a loan basis, but they may be purchased. When purchasing slidefilms, send your order direct to Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue NW., Washington 11, D. C., the firm which holds the United States Department of Agriculture's contract. For further information regarding slidefilms write to Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

COLOR SLIDES

The Soil Conservation Service maintains an extensive file of 2- by 2-inch color slides in each of the seven regional offices and in its Washington office. Duplicates of these slides are available at 25 cents each. Requests for color slides of regional or State subjects should be addressed to the appropriate regional office. General soil conservation slides may be obtained from the Washington office. A special selection of 2- by 2-color slides on soil and water conservation is available on extended loan to schools. This series is titled, "Teacher's Set" and is furnished with a Teacher's Guide. It may be obtained from the Washington office only.

Color slides are available under the following classifications:

Before-and-after conservation.	Land-capability classes.
Charts and maps.	Livestock.
Conservation in education.	Orchards.
Conservation research.	Outlets and water structures.
Contour cultivation.	Pasture.
Cover crops.	Poor farming.
Crops.	Range.
Drainage.	Snow surveys.
Dust Bowl.	Soil profiles.
Erosion.	Streambank erosion and control.
Farm ponds.	Strip cropping.
Farms and farm land from the air.	Terraces.
Forests.	Tillage practices.
Grasses and legumes.	Water conservation.
Harvest.	Waterways.
Irrigation.	Wildlife.

FOUR- BY FIVE-INCH COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

The Washington office of the Soil Conservation Service has a collection of 4- by 5-inch color transparencies. These transparencies are loaned to responsible firms and individuals for reproduction or platemaking. They are high-quality originals and must be handled with great care. The following classifications are included in the Washington collection:

Drainage.	People.
Erosion.	Poor farming practices.
Farm demonstrations, "face lift-ings," etc.	Scenics.
Farm ponds.	Soils.
Farms and farm land from the air.	Strip cropping.
Fires.	Terraces.
Floods and flood control.	Tillage.
Grasses and legumes.	Trees.
Livestock.	Water conservation.
Orchards and vineyards.	Waterways.
Pasture and range.	Wildlife.
	Windbreaks and shelterbelts.

BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Black-and-white photographs on all phases of soil conservation are available on request for newspaper, magazine, textbook publishers, and for some educational purposes through the seven regional offices and the Washington office of the Soil Conservation Service. For reproduction purposes, these photographs are furnished in the popular 8- by 10-inch size, on single-weight, glossy paper. They may also be obtained in other sizes and finishes, for special purposes. The Washington file contains the following classifications:

Before-and-after conservation.	Livestock.
Conservation irrigation.	Machinery.
Crops.	Pasture.
Dust Bowl.	People.
Dust erosion.	Plants.
Dust storms.	Poor farming practices.
"Face liftings".	Poor irrigation practices.
Farm ponds.	Range.
Farms and farm land from the air.	Research.
Fences.	Scenics.
Fertilizer.	Sheet erosion.
Fire.	Silt and streambank erosion.
Floods and flood control.	Soil.
Foods.	Strip cropping.
Foreign conservation and erosion.	Terraces.
Gardens.	Tillage.
Geological erosion.	Trees.
Grasses and legumes.	Vineyards, groves, and orchards.
Gullies and gully control.	Watershed management.
Highway erosion.	Wildlife.
Land-capability classes.	Wind erosion and control.